

# Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

October 1, 2021



## Contact Us

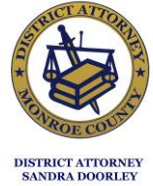
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# Monroe County District Attorney's Office

## Weekly Newsletter



Welcome to the weekly newsletter from Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

## Message from Sandra Doorley

### Raise the Age/Youth Part

*Over the past week, there have been community questions on the technicalities of the Raise the Age legislation and Youth Part. Below are some common questions that I am happy to address.*

#### *What is Raise the Age?*

*New York's Raise the Age legislation changed the age that a defendant can be prosecuted as an adult to 18 years old at the time of the crime for criminal cases. The transition was slow, raising the age to 17 in October 2018 and 18 in October 2019.*

#### *What is Youth Part?*

*Youth Part is a specialized court that addresses the unique issues of prosecuting Adolescent Offenders or Juvenile Offenders charged with certain felonies. Youth Part judges are Family Court Judges. If a case is transferred from Youth Part to Family Court, the individual is considered a Juvenile Delinquent. When cases are transferred to family court, they are confidential and not open to the public.*

#### *What is an Adolescent Offender? Juvenile Offender?*

*Raise the Age created a new designation, titled Adolescent Offender or AO. An AO is a 16 or 17-year-old who is accused of committing a felony. The existing title of a Juvenile Offender or JO is a 14, or 15-year-old, person charged with certain violent felonies, including murder and rape. A 13-year-old can be a JO only if charged with murder or a sexually motivated felony.*

#### *What about Violent Felonies?*

*Juvenile Offenders and Adolescent Offenders who commit violent felonies have the opportunity to be tried as adults based on the nature of the offense. While these cases are prosecuted in Youth Part, the procedures of being charged as an adult are the same as any other courtroom. The primary difference the age makes in these cases where defendants are charged as adults is the sentencing structure.*

Sandra



# Homicide Update

So far in 2021:

City of Rochester Total: 61

Monroe County Total: 69

## Highlights from the MCDA's Office

**Anthony Nesmith** was sentenced to 22 years to Life as a persistent violent felony offender. This comes after his conviction of two counts of Burglary in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, two counts of Robbery in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and four counts of Assault in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree for the home invasion and assault of two older adults in the town of Irondequoit. This case was prosecuted by ADA Monica O'Brien, Chief of the Elder Abuse Bureau.

44-year-old **Megan Zona** was convicted by a Monroe County Jury of one count of Sexual Abuse in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree for the abuse against a child under the age of 11. This case was investigated by the Greece Police Department, Monroe County Child Protective Services Impact Team and Bivona Child Advocacy Center for abuse that occurred on or between July 12, 2012, and January 31, 2013. This case was prosecuted by ADA Kevin Sunderland, of the Special Victims Unit.

On Thursday, September 30, **Kristin Dean-Krueger** and **Shannon Rienholtz** arraigned in Rochester City Court of Murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree in relation to the stabbing death of 67-year-old James Wooden. This case is being prosecuted by ADA Monica O'Brien, Chief of the Elder Abuse Bureau.

**Scott James Anderson** was indicted on six counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree, three counts of Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 5<sup>th</sup> Degree. These charges are in relation to drug related events between July-September of this year. This case is being prosecuted by ADA Jennifer Kennedy of the Special Investigations Bureau.

**Kiana Nelson** was indicted on Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated With a Child Passenger and Driving While Intoxicated. This indictment is in relation to an alleged DWI with a child less than 15-years-old in the car from May, 2020. This case will be prosecuted by ADA Raymond Benitez, Chief of the DWI Bureau.

**Michelle Fournier** was indicted on two counts of Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated with a Child Passenger, two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Driving While Intoxicated, and Refusal to Take a Breath Test for an incident on the highway on April 29, 2021. This case is being prosecuted by ADA Eric Hurd, of the DWI Bureau.

## MCDA in the Community



### Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Assistant District Attorneys in our Domestic Violence Bureau attended the Rochester/Monroe County Domestic Violence Consortium kick-off to Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The 2020 Domestic Violence Report to the Community was released to highlight trends in the courts, public safety and services – with a focus on the increased need during the pandemic.



### School Supply/Backpack Drive

Employees of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office participated in a backpack and school supply drive for children on Frost Avenue in the City of Rochester. Organized by 5<sup>th</sup> grader Aleeyah and her sister Acara, they were able to secure schools supplies for their friends and neighbors who attend various Rochester City School District Elementary schools. Great work Aleeyah!



## MCDA in the News

<https://www.whec.com/rochester-new-york-news/woman-convicted-of-sexually-abusing-child-younger-than-11/6254418/>

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2021/09/30/lovely-warren-trial-mayor-rochester-ny-what-to-know/5888619001/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/two-women-plead-not-guilty-to-stabbing-man-at-durand-eastman-park>

**WE'RE HIRING**

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